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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122229
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NOTE TO ANA FROM MPI: LINE 8 PARA 5 OMISSION.
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C O R R E C T E D COPY(LINE 8 PARA 5 OMISSION)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PORG, UNSC, LE, XF

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OF UNIFIL ANTI-INFILTRATION
CAPABILITY

"FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT
QUOTE
O R 282024Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASH DC 0002
JCS WASH DC 0001
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REF: DAMACUS 1543 NOTAL

1. PREVIOUS UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
HAVE DEPENDED PRIMARILY UPON BINOCULARS FOR DETECTING
INFILTRATION. BINOCULARS ARE VIRTUALLY USELESS AT NIGHT.

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DISCUSSION) THAT SENSORS MIGHT BE EMPLOYED TO ASSIST
UN IN MONITORING MOVEMENTS.

2. UNIFIL'S CAPABILITY FOR COUNTERING NIGHT INFILTRATION
COULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED BY EQUIPPING THE FORCE WITH
COST-EFFECTIVE EASY-TO-OPERATE NIGHT OBSERVATION DEVICES
(NODS). USE OF NODS WOULD INCREASE LEBANESE AND ISRAELI
CONFIDENCE IN UNIFIL'S ABILITY TO RESTORE PEACE, STABILITY,
AND LEBANESE AUTHORITY TO SOUTHERN LEBANON.

3. THE TYPES OF NODS THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD BE USEFUL TO
UNIFIL ARE IMAGE INTENSIFICATION DEVICES AND INFRARED
SEARCH LIGHTS. WITH THE IMAGE INTENSIFIER, AN OBSERVER
COULD DETECT HUMANS SMOKING AT A DISTANCE OF SEVERAL
KILOMETERS AT NIGHT. UNDER MOONLIGHT CONDITIONS HUMANS
CAN EASILY BE SEEN AT DISTANCES UP TO 1 KILOMETER. THE
INFRARED SEARCH LIGHT COUPLED WITH THE IMAGE INTENSIFIER
ENABLES AN OBSERVER WITHOUT BEING SEEN TO DETECT HUMANS
AT DISTANCES UP TO 1 KILOMETER EVEN ON NIGHTS WITHOUT STAR
OR MOON LIGHT. THESE TWO NODS ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGES
OF BEING RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE AND COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE
THROUGH SEVERAL US AND FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS. THEY ARE
ALSO SIMPLE TO OPERATE, AND EASILY TRANSPORTABLE; HENCE
THEY COULD BE USED AT FIXED SITES OR ON PATROLS.

4. A NOCTRON IV IMAGE INTENSIFICATION DEVICE EQUIPPED
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WITH 300MM F3.2 LENS COST APPROXIMATELY 3,000 DOLLARS
WHEN PURCHASED COMMERCIALLY IN ORDERS OF 25-30. A 1
KILOWATT XENON INFRARED SEARCH LIGHT COSTS APPROXIMATELY
6,000 DOLLARS WHEN PURCHASED SIMILARLY. DELIVERY TIMES
FOR BOTH ARE ABOUT 30 DAYS. THE SEARCHLIGHT REQUIRES A
MOUNTING DEVICE WHICH COSTS ABOUT 700 DOLLARS AND HAS
ABOUT A FOUR MONTH DELIVERY TIME. OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE
IS THAT 30 NIGHT VISION DEVICES AND 30 IR SEARCHLIGHTS
WITH MOUNTING DEVICES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MONITOR THE
60 KM BORDER AREA ALONG LITANI RIVER. UNATTENDED GROUND
SENSORS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE WHICH COULD ALERT UNIFIL
PERSONNEL TO AN AREA WHERE INFILTRATION IS OCCURRING.
AN ON-SITE SURVEY BY A TEAM OF EXPERTS IS REQUIRED TO
DETERMINE BEST DEPLOYMENT OF THESE SENSORS.

5. DRAWING UPON THE ABOVE, MISSION SHOULD SUGGEST TO
APPROPRIATE UN OFFICIALS THAT IF UNIFIL IS TO BE EFFECTIVE
IN PREVENTING THE INFILTRATION OF UNAUTHORIZED ARMED
PERSONNEL INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON, IT WILL NEED NODS. MISSION
SHOULD INDICATE THAT THE BEST WAY TO FINANCE THE APPROXIMATE
200,000 DOLLARS COST OF THE 30 NIGHT VISION DEVICES AND IR
SEARCH LIGHTS WITH MOUNTING DEVICES IS TO INCLUDE THEM IN

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THE REGULAR UNIFIL BUDGET ESTIMATE. SENSORS COSTS WOULD

OF COURSE BE ADDITIONAL. OVERALL COSTS WOULD THEN BE BORNE THROUGH UN ASSESSMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A VERY INEXPENSIVE WAY TO ENHANCE UNIFIL'S EFFECTIVENESS, THUS SERVING BOTH US AND UN INTERESTS. COOPER. UNQUOTE VANCE

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